

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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NSAE-00 SS-15 SY-05 CPR-01 HA-05 DEAE-00 /072 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1447

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1450

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP, NP  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER BISTA TO NEW YORK FOR SSOD --  
REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT

REF: KATHMANDU 1338

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY BHATT CONVOKED ME TO MFA MARCH 20 TO INFORM ME THAT PRIME MINISTER BISTA HAD DEFINITELY DECIDED TO ATTEND UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT IN NEW YORK AND THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO US HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER. TIMING OF BISTA'S VISIT TO NEW YORK WOULD LARGELY DEPEND ON THIS APPOINTMENT AND WITHIN TIME FRAME OF MAY 23 - JUNE 28 SSOD MEETING HE COULD ADJUST HIS TRAVEL TO SUIT PRESIDENT'S CONVENIENCE.

2. I SAID THAT I WAS PLEASED THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE VISITING U.S., THAT IN ADDITION TO HIS COMMITMENTS AT SSOD I HOPED USEFUL SCHEDULE OF CONTACTS WITH USG OFFICIALS COULD BE ARRANGED AND THAT I WOULD OF COURSE CONVEY TO WASHINGTON PRIME MINISTER'S INTEREST IN CALLING ON PRESIDENT, BUT NOTING THAT DEMANDS ON PRESIDENT'S TIME WERE HEAVY.

3. DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF BISTA'S TRAVEL PLANS, SUBJECT OF PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON CAME UP. IN VIEW OF  
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NEPALESE SENSITIVITIES REGARDING INDIA AND IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO PROTOCOL AND EQUAL TREATMENT, I MADE POINT OF REMINDING BHATT THAT BISTA'S SCHEDULE IN U.S. COULD NOT BE HANDLED IN SAME WAY AS THAT OF INDIAN PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE TWO LEADERS WOULD BE VISITING US IN DIFFERENT CAPACITY, BISTA AS PARTICIPANT IN SSOD, AND DESAI AS OFFICIAL GUEST OF USG. BHATT SAID HE FULLY

UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT BUT HE STILL HOPED THAT BISTA COULD BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT. COMMENT: I THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO GET THIS POINT OUT ON THE TABLE RIGHT AWAY. NEPALESE MAY STILL COMPARE TREATMENT ACCORDED DESAI AND BISTA IN U.S., BUT IT IS REASSURING THAT AT LEAST HMG IS AWARE THAT IT CAN NOT EXPECT BISTA TO BE ACCORDED SAME ARRANGEMENTS AS DESAI. END COMMENT.

4. RECOGNIZING THAT PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IS INDEED CROWDED, I STILL HOPE THAT HE WILL RECEIVE PRIME MINISTER BISTA AND I SO RECOMMEND FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A) BISTA REPRESENTS A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE HAD EXCELLENT BILATERAL RELATIONS OVER THE YEARS, WHICH VALUES ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND WHICH ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS HAS EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION FOR OUR STEADFAST EFFORTS SINCE 1952 TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEPAL'S DEVELOPMENT. MUCH OF PRESIDENT'S TIME IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS NATURALLY HAS TO FOCUS ON PROBLEM COUNTRIES. ONCE IN A WHILE, OUR FRIENDS DESERVE A DAY IN COURT.

B) AS ONE OF THE POOREST OF THE LDCS, NEPAL IS ONE OF OUR PRIORITY TARGETS IN ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY OF INCREASED DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE ABROAD AND OF PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF POOR PEOPLE (STATE 70341). MEETING BETWEEN BISTA AND PRESIDENT WOULD UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THESE OBJECTIVES.

C) OVER THE YEARS, NEPAL HAS PLAYED A MODERATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN MULTILATERAL, NON-ALIGNED AND THIRD WORLD FORA AND HERE AGAIN WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH POLICIES DESERVE RECOGNITION FROM TIME TO TIME. GON'S UNEQUIVOCAL AND PROMPT RESPONSE TO UN'S LATEST APPEAL FOR TROOPS FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN LEBANON IN ITSELF MERITS ACKNOWLEDGMENT WHICH OBVIOUSLY PRESIDENT COULD MOST APPROPRIATELY EXTEND.

D) WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EXCELLENT BILATERAL RELATIONS, NEPAL HAS MADE ENCOURAGING PROGRESS ON THE ONLY TWO ISSUES WHICH ARISE PERIODICALLY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, NAMELY HUMAN RIGHTS AND NARCOTICS. ON LATTER POINT IT WAS PRIME MINISTER BISTA WHO REVERSED HIS PREDECESSOR'S PLANS TO INVOLVE NEPAL IN OPIUM PRODUCTION AND DECIDED AGAINST GOING DOWN THIS ROAD. BISTA HAS ALSO PLAYED CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN LIBERALIZING STEPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT WHICH HMG HAS ADOPTED RECENTLY. AS BOTH OF THESE ISSUES ARE PRIORITY CONCERNS OF THE PRESIDENT, OUR SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRESS TO DATE AND IMPORTANCE WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH TO THESE MATTERS COULD, OF COURSE, MOST EFFECTIVELY BE UNDERSCORED BY PRESIDENT.

E) IT HAS BEEN YEARS SINCE RANKING OFFICIAL OF EITHER COUNTRY HAS VISITED OTHER. GIVEN LONG, CLOSE AND GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND U.S., SUCH CONTACT IS OVERDUE.

F) FINALLY, SMALL CAN BE BEAUTIFUL AND FROM TIME TO TIME COUNTRIES LIKE NEPAL MERIT SOME ATTENTION. IT MIGHT BE REFRESHING FOR PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH RANKING REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT THAT FACT AND TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO NEPAL'S COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE OF ITS PEOPLE. WE HOPE PRESIDENT WILL AGREE AND SPARE A FEW MINUTES OF HIS TIME TO MEET PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL.  
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